

Document Page 1 of 6
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
Eastern Division

In Re:)	Case Number: 19-28687
MICHAEL HELMSTETTER,)	
)	
)	Chapter: 7
)	Honorable Jacqueline Cox
)	
Debtor(s))	

**ORDER APPROVING BID PROCEDURES FOR SALE OF CAUSES OF ACTION, LIMITING
NOTICE AND SETTING FINAL HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SALE**

THIS CAUSE COMING ON TO BE HEARD ON DAVID R. HERZOG, Chapter 7 Trustee's Motion To Approve (I) Bidding Procedures; (II) Sale Of Causes of Action Free And Clear Of Liens, Claims, And Other Interests, or (III) Abandonment of Causes of Action (the "Sale Motion");

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Bidding Procedures as revised and set forth in the Trustee's Omnibus Reply [Docket 163] to objection to the Trustee's Sale Motion [Docket 139] and attached thereto as Exhibit A, (the "Approved Bidding Procedures"), are approved in all respects, except as follows:

- (A) the deadline for submitting bids to the Trustee is set as January 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.;
- (B) the hearing to confirm any Winning Bid as recommended by the Trustee is set for January 11, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., and,
- (C) all bids shall be submitted only for individual causes of action and no bulk bids will be considered.

2. The Trustee will offer for sale the Trustee's entire and most expansive extent of the estate's right, title and interest in and to each of the causes of action scheduled by the Debtor and as described in the Bidding Procedures attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3. The Debtor shall serve a copy of a notice of the hearing to approve the sale of the Causes of Action and the Approved Bidding Procedures (Exhibit A attached hereto), to: (i) the Debtor and his counsel; (ii) counsel to the United States Trustee; (iii) all entities known to the Trustee having demonstrated an interest in purchasing the Causes of Action; (iv) the twenty largest unsecured creditors; and (v) all parties that have filed appearances or requested notices through the Court's CM/ECF system.

4. Notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 2002(a) and 6004 is limited to those identified in Paragraph 3, for cause shown.

5. For the avoidance of doubt, Causes of Action does not include any causes of action against Kingdom Chevrolet, Inc. ("Kingdom"), Western Avenue Nissan, Inc. ("Western") and Richard Ruscitti ("Ruscitti" and collectively with Kingdom and Western, the "Settling Parties") released by the Trustee pursuant to that certain Settlement Agreement dated July 27, 2020 by and among the Trustee and the Settling Parties as approved by this Court on September 1, 2020 [Docket No. 76].

6. This matter is set for further hearing on January 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. to confirm the Winning Bids (or Back Up Bids) as recommended by the Trustee for the sale of the individual Causes of Action.

Enter:



Honorable Jacqueline Cox

United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated: NOV 23 2021

Prepared by:

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EXHIBIT A

BIDDING PROCEDURES

DAVID R. HERZOG, not individually, but solely in his capacity as the Chapter 7 Trustee (“Seller”) of the bankruptcy estate of Michael Helmstetter (the “Debtor”), has sought authority from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the “Bankruptcy Court”) to sell (the “Sale”) the following assets:

Causes of Action

The entire and most expansive extent of the Trustee, Debtor and estate of the Debtor’s right, title and interest in any and all right, title and interest that Michael Helmstetter has on his own behalf the right to prosecute in those certain causes of actions against the following individuals and entities:

- A. **Santander Bank, N.A. – Scheduled Damages of \$7.9 Million**
- B. **F.C.A., a/k/a Fiat – Scheduled Damages of \$7.9 Million**
- C. **2401 S. Michigan Building Corporation, County Mayo Corporation and Maureen Joyce – Scheduled Damages of \$1.7 Million**
- D. **Nissan North America/Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation – Scheduled Damages of \$2 Million**
- E. **Benitta Berke – Unknown Damages**
- F. **Keri Fallon – Scheduled Damages of \$91,000.00**
- G. **Terry Gaouetter – Scheduled Damages of \$3 Million**
- H. **O’Rourke & Moody –Unknown Damages**
- I. **World Business Lenders and Ultegra – Scheduled Damages of \$1,500,000.00**
- J. **Ronald Richardson – Scheduled Damages of \$3.5 Million**
- K. **Adam Wimmer & Painted Sky – Scheduled Damages of \$1.5 Million**
- L. **Monty Merz – Unknow Damages**
- M. **Monroe Capital – Scheduled Damages of \$50,000.00**
- N. **Kevin Benjamin – Unknown Damages.**

(collectively referred to as “Causes of Actions” or individually as “Cause of Action”)

Seller shall offer for sale each of the Causes of Action as individual lots. Seller will seek the entry of a final order approving the sale of the Causes of Action ("**Sale Order**") to the highest and best offer(s) in accordance with the following bidding and sale procedures:

Due Diligence

1. To the extent available and within his possession and/or control, Seller will make available financial and such other information concerning the Causes of Action.

Participation Requirements & Sales Process

Submission of Bids

2. In order to be a "Qualified Bidder," any such bidder shall be required to submit the following to the Seller, c/o Gregory K. Stern, P.C., 53 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 1442, Chicago, Illinois 60604, email greg@gregstern.com (Attn.: Greg Stern), on or before **5:00 p.m. (prevailing central time) on January 4, 2022**; (a) its best and highest offer for the purchase of any individual Cause of Action, in writing (the "**Bid**"); and (b) a wire transfer or cashier's or certified check in the amount equal to 50% of the Bid ("**Deposit**"), payable to Seller (to be held in the Seller's Counsel's IOLTA account).

3. To the extent that Seller receives multiple Bids on any individual Cause of Action, an Auction, as more fully defined below, will be held related to that Cause of Action. In the event that the Seller receives only one Bid for any Cause of Action, such Bid will be recommended for approval as the best and highest Bid at the Sale Hearing.

Auction and Selection of Winning Bid

4. The Auction will be held via Zoom on **January 6, 2022** at the offices of Gregory K. Stern, PC, 53 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 1442, Chicago, Illinois 60604 at **11:00 a.m. (Central)**. The only persons who will be permitted to bid at the Auction are those bidders who qualify as Qualified Bidders, as defined above. All bids shall be made as a matter of record and all upset bids must be in an amount at least 10% higher than the existing highest Bid for any individual Cause of Action.

5. After January 6, 2022, the Seller and his representatives will engage in an analysis of the Bids to determine which Qualified Bid(s) is, in their collective best judgment, the highest and best offer(s) (each a "**Winning Bid(s)**"). A Qualified Bidder(s) making a Winning Bid(s) is hereinafter referred to as a "**Winning Bidder(s)**." A Qualified Bidder making the second highest and best offer (the "**Back-Up Bid(s)**") is referred to as the "**Back-Up Bidder(s)**." At the conclusion of the Bid Analysis, Seller will ask the Court to enter an order ("**Sale Order**") at the Sale Hearing (defined below) authorizing Seller to consummate the sale of the Causes of Action or any individual Cause of Action upon the terms of a Winning Bid(s), with a Winning Bidder(s) (and the terms of a Back-Up Bidder(s) if a Winning Bidder(s) does not close), and to execute such additional documentation as is reasonably necessary to close such sale upon the terms of a Winning Bid(s) and a Back-Up Bid(s).

6. In order to participate at the Auction, and in addition to such other requirements set forth herein, all Qualified Bidders shall be deemed to have agreed to keep their bid(s) open and in full force and effect through and including the Sale Hearing (as hereinafter defined).

Sale Hearing

7. A final hearing ("Sale Hearing") to obtain authorization to accept and approval of the Winning Bid(s) and Back-Up Bid(s) through the entry of the Sale Order, shall commence on **January 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. (prevailing central time)** before the Honorable Jacqueline P. Cox via Zoom for government. The Sale Hearing may be continued from time to time without further notice other than by announcement in open court.

8. A Winning Bid(s) shall have been accepted by Seller only upon entry of the Sale Order approving the Sale to the Winning Bidder(s) and Seller will not be obligated to take any action related to the sale of the Causes of Action unless and until the Court enters the Sale Order, which must be in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to Seller. Seller's presentation to the Court for approval of a Winning Bid(s) does not constitute Seller's acceptance thereof.

9. Upon the Court's entry of the Sale Order, a Winning Bidder(s) shall become a "**Purchaser(s).**"

Other Material Terms and Conditions

10. In the event that a Winning Bidder(s) defaults in the performance of its obligation to purchase the Causes of Action pursuant to a Winning Bid(s), that Qualified Bidder's Deposit shall be forfeited and shall be immediately transferred to Seller. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such forfeiture shall not be in full satisfaction of any damages caused to any person by a Winning Bidder's default as described herein. Any Qualified Bidder(s) making a Deposit who is not a Winning Bidder(s) or a Back-Up Bidder(s) (as the Winning Bidder(s) is specified in the Sale Order) shall have its Deposit returned within two (2) business days after a Winning Bidder(s) closes the sale of the Causes of Action or any individual cause of action.

11. The remaining balance of the Bid shall be due and payable to the Seller at the closing of the sale of the Causes of Action or any individual cause of action, which shall take place on the fifteenth (15th) day after the entry of the Sale Order.

12. In the event that a Winning Bidder(s) defaults in the performance of its obligations to purchase the Causes of Action pursuant to a Winning Bid(s), then Back-Up Bidder(s) shall be required to proceed as a Winning Bidder(s) with its Back-Up Bid(s). Consequently, a Back-Up Bid(s) will be treated as a Winning Bid(s), without further notice, hearing or entry of any additional order by the Court.

13. The offers of all Qualified Bidders shall be irrevocable until the earlier of (a) the closing of the sale of the Causes of Action or any individual cause of action, or (b) the withdrawal by Seller of the Causes of Action or any individual cause of action from the sale.

14. Any sale of the Causes of Action or any individual cause of action pursuant to the Sale Order shall be free and clear of all claims, liens and interests (collectively, "**Interests**")

(unless otherwise agreed to by such Winning Bidder(s) and Seller), with such Interests attaching to the proceeds of the Sale (the “**Sale Proceeds**”) in the same nature, extent and priority as those Interests enjoyed prior to the sale.

15. Seller may determine, in exercise of his business judgment, which Bid(s), if any, is the highest or otherwise best offer after considering all relevant factors, including, without limitation, any applicable fees and their impact on the net recovery to the estate; and he may reject at any time before entry of a Court order approving a Qualified Bid(s), any bid that, in Seller’s sole discretion, is (i) inadequate or insufficient, (ii) not in conformity with the requirements of the Bidding Procedures or the terms and conditions of sale, or (iii) contrary to the best interests of Debtor’s bankruptcy estate, and its creditors. Each Qualified Bidder shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive, *in personam*, jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court in connection with any dispute, claim, controversy, suit, action or proceeding arising out of or relating to the Auction or the Bidding Procedures.